

Serial No. 10/828,634

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A piercing nozzle comprising:

a first elongated, hollow member having first and second ends, the second end comprising a hose connector;

a second elongated, hollow member having first and second ends, wherein the first end of the second member is connected to the first end of the first member at a connection that allows fluid to be communicated from the first member to the second member, and wherein the second member defines a plurality of holes proximate the second end of the second member, wherein the second member is shorter than the first member;

a hand guard connected to the first member, extending outward from the first member at a distance, wherein the hand guard comprises an elongated portion that extends generally parallel to the first member;

a stop plate connected to the second member, wherein the stop plate has a diameter greater than the second member, and wherein the stop plate is generally parallel to the first member and is spaced from the first member by the same distance as the hand guard;

an anvil connected to the second member proximate the first end of the second member; and

a piercing tip connected to the second end of the second member.

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2. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the second member is connected to the first member at a 90-degree angle.

3. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the first and second members are formed from 1.5-inch diameter steel tubing.

4. (original) The nozzle of claim 3, wherein the tubing is .120 inches thick.

5. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the anvil portion and the tip are formed from hardened steel.

6. (currently amended) A piercing nozzle comprising:

a first elongated, hollow member having first and second ends, the second end comprising a hose connector;

a hand guard connected to the first member, wherein the hand guard comprises a portion that extends outward from the first member by a distance;

a second elongated, hollow member having first and second ends, wherein the first end of the second member is connected to the first end of the first member at a connection that allows fluid to be communicated from the first member to the second member, and wherein the second member defines a plurality of holes proximate the second end of the second member;

a stop connected to the second member and spaced from the first member by substantially the same distance by which the portion of the hand guard is spaced from the first member;

an anvil connected to the second member proximate the first end of the second member; and

a piercing tip connected to the second end of the second member.

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7. (original) The nozzle of claim 6, further comprising a means for allowing the first member to be gripped by a person's hand, said means being guarded by the hand guard.

8. (original) The nozzle of claim 6, wherein the hand guard has first and second ends each connected to the first member, and wherein the hand guard and the first member define a plane, and further comprising a ridge connected to the first member, wherein the ridge runs along the first member between the first and second ends of the hand guard, within the plane, and serves as a hand grip.

9. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the first elongated member has a length in the range of 24-48 inches, and wherein the second elongated member has a length in the range of 18-36 inches.

10. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the first elongated member is 36 inches in length.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The nozzle of claim ~~611~~, wherein the stop is a metal plate that is wider than the second elongated member and is connected to the second elongated member between the first and second ends.

13. (currently amended) The nozzle of claim ~~611~~, wherein the stop is connected to the second member at a distance of 12-20 inches from a sharpened end of the piercing tip.

14. (previously canceled)

15. (previously canceled)

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16. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the anvil comprises a fixed portion that is fixedly connected to the first end of the second member and a striking portion that removably connects to the fixed portion of the anvil, and wherein the fixed portion of the anvil and the striking portion are formed from hardened steel and are coaxial with the second elongated member.

17. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the tip has a sharpened end that forms an angle in the range of 10-30 degrees.

18. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the tip has a sharpened end that forms a 20-degree angle.

19. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the holes are formed in a sidewall of the second elongated member and direct water outward from a longitudinal axis of the second elongated member.

20. (original) The nozzle of claim 19, wherein the holes are formed in a groove running around a circumference of the second elongated member.

21. (original) The nozzle of claim 20, wherein the holes are spaced within the groove in pairs, wherein each of the holes is set at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the second elongated member such that a first hole in one of the pairs directs water toward water exiting a second hole in one of the pairs.

22. (original) The nozzle of claim 20, wherein the holes are spaced within the groove in pairs and are aligned at 45-degree angles relative to a longitudinal axis of the second elongated member.

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23. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, wherein the holes are formed in a plurality of grooves running around the second elongated member, wherein the holes in a first groove are offset relative to holes in an adjacent second groove.

24. (original) The nozzle of claim 1, further comprising a handle connected to the first elongated member and to the anvil.

25. (currently amended) A piercing hose nozzle comprising:

first and second rigid, elongated members connected at a connection, wherein the first member is longer than the second member, wherein the second member defines a plurality of holes in a sidewall of the second member, wherein the holes are positioned circumferentially around the second member near an end of the second member;

a hand guard connected to the first member and including a portion extending outward from the first member by a distance;

a positioned from the first member by the same distance as the portion of the hand guard, wherein the stop is adapted to limit penetration by the first member through a surface;

a piercing tip connected to the end of the second member; and

a hose connection that provides fluid to the holes.

26. (canceled)

27. (original) The nozzle of claim 25, further comprising an anvil connected to the second member.

28. (original) The nozzle of claim 25, wherein the hose connection is positioned at an end of the first member and wherein the first and second members are hollow and communicate fluid through an interior cavity from the hose connection to the holes.

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29. (previously canceled)

30. (original) The nozzle of claim 25, wherein the second member is cylindrical.

31. (previously canceled)

32. (currently amended) A piercing nozzle that attaches to a hose, comprising;

means for piercing a first side of a wall;

means for dispersing a fluid to a second side of the wall;

means for connecting to a hose containing the fluid;

means for communicating the fluid from the means for connecting to the means for dispersing;

means for gripping the apparatus comprising a ridge running along the means for communicating, said means including a guard;

means for urging the means for piercing through the wall to the second side after the means for piercing has initially pierced the wall, while the means for piercing is positioned in the wall; and

means for limiting distance by which the means for piercing passes through the wall, wherein the means for limiting limits distance based upon a position of the guard.

33. (original) The nozzle of claim 32, wherein the means for dispersing comprises means for dispersing the fluid radially outward from the means for piercing.

34. (currently amended) An axe-style firefighting apparatus comprising:

a first rigid, elongated, hollow member comprising

a hose connection adapted to connect to a hose;

a grip capable of facilitating a person's grasp of the first member; and

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a hand guard positioned proximate the grip; and

a second rigid, elongated, hollow member, wherein the second member is shorter in length than the first member, wherein the second member is connected to the first member at a substantially perpendicular connection that allows communications of fluid between the first member and the second member, wherein the second member comprises a piercing tip, and wherein the second member defines a plurality of holes proximate the piercing tip that allow fluid to escape the second member, and wherein the second member comprises a stop positioned relative to the first member at a same distance as the hand guard.

35. (previously added) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the grip comprises a ridge running along the first member between first and second ends of the hand guard.

36. (previously added) The nozzle of claim 1, further comprising a hand guard having first and second ends each connected to the first member, and wherein the hand guard and the first member define a plane.

37. (previously added) The nozzle of claim 36, further comprising a ridge connected to the first member, wherein the ridge runs along the first member between the first and second ends of the hand guard, within the plane, and serves as a hand grip.

38. (new) The nozzle of claim 34, wherein the stop has a diameter of approximately six inches.